

Sinclair Broadcasting is making a mockery of the phrase "freedom of the press." It is not freedom when a decision is handed down to local stations forcing them to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge. Because of this Sinclair (and its owners) are obligated by law to serve the public interest.

The recent decisions by the FCC and its head, Michael Powell (whose father fought for freedom) have taken away the public interest and ownership of the airwaves. Allowing corporations to purchase and own the large numbers of media outlets they do, subverts the democratic process by presenting an unfairly biased view-point.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

We need more of the local angle on a subject, especially one as important as this election is. We do not need our information spoon-fed to us by those who think they know best. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

These actions taken by Sinclair's owners prove that we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them.

Make the license renewal process reflect the fact the community is more important than the bottom line of greed and control.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A. James Nicholas